

you to write so freely and frankly. None but a *true* friend would so have written.

I sympathize with the people in their anxiety as to what is to be done with the Atlantic road and I can see how easy it will be for a man like Harper, who cares nothing for the wrongs he inflicts upon others, to add to that anxiety and to injure any man he assails with a newspaper, for the time being. But I am a great believer in the correctness of the final judgment of the people and I shall patiently await that judgment. Conscious as I am that I have no other motive or desire than to serve the best interest of the people, I have no fears as to what that final judgment will be. I am now as indifferent to Mr. Harper's criticisms as I will then be to his praise.

I am under no sort of obligations to any of the Boston syndicate nor am I in any way in league with them. I do, however, desire to see them treated justly and shall not take any part in any effort to take advantage of them. After the stockholders had declared the lease forfeited, two of the syndicate, Messrs. Denny and Carruth, had an interview with me in the presence of John L. Morehead,<sup>82</sup> Eugene Morehead, Julius A. Gray, John Gatling and others. In this interview, they made a request that two weeks be given them in which to have a meeting of their associates to consider the situation in which the action of the stockholders had placed them and to see what could be done to help them out of their losses. I replied to them, if they would agree to surrender, without litigation, if they could do nothing which would meet the demands of the board of directors, that I thought the board would act wisely in giving them the two weeks. There was then nothing said about thirty days, nor did I hear anything said about thirty days until I heard the board had given them thirty. I will not, however, say that the board acted unwisely in making the time thirty days, for I think it the surest, and possibly the speediest way to a repossession of the property by the Atlantic company.

To show you how little foundation there is for the wild rumors and conjectures referred to in your letter, to the effect that there will be other delays and that all sorts of unreasonable things will happen, I enclose you a copy of a letter that I yesterday had occasion to address to A. J. Galloway, Esq., I supposed, un-

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<sup>82</sup>John Lindsay Morehead, banker and manufacturer of Charlotte. He was a large stockholder in the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. Grant, *Alumni History of the University*, 441.